

What is claimed is:

1 A network commerce system comprising:

an orderer terminal handled by an orderer ordering  
an item or service;

5 a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor, said  
producer/processor producing and processing said item  
or provides a produced and processed item, in  
accordance with an order from said orderer terminal;

10 wherein said orderer terminal and said  
producing/processing terminal are interconnected via  
said network; and

a headquarters terminal including a receiver for  
receiving an order from said orderer terminal  
15 transmitted via said network and a transmitter for  
transmitting the order received by said receiver to a  
producing/processing terminal via said network;

said headquarters terminal selectively determining  
said producing/processing terminal in accordance with  
20 a received order and then making the selected  
producing/processing terminal produce and process  
said item or provide a produced and processed item.

2 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1, wherein  
25 said item or service is an item edited with digital data

or editing of said digital data; and wherein said orderer  
terminal transmits said digital data together with said  
order; and wherein each of said producing/processing  
terminals receives said order and said digital data  
5 transmitted via said network and via said headquarters  
terminal and then edits said digital data in accordance  
with the content of said order.

3 The network commerce system defined in Claim 2, wherein  
10 said digital data comprises image data or acoustic data.

4 The network commerce system defined in Claim 2, further  
comprising a payment terminal connected to said network,  
for paying a purchase charge of said item sold or said  
15 service provided, via said orderer terminal.

5 The network commerce system defined in Claim 2, wherein  
said item or said service is delivered or supplied to a  
destination other than said orderer.

6 The network commerce system defined in Claim 3, further  
comprising a payment terminal connected to said network,  
for paying a purchase charge of said item sold or said  
25 service provided, via said orderer terminal.

7 The network commerce system defined in Claim 3, wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied to a destination other than said orderer.

5 8 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1, wherein said digital data comprises image data or acoustic data.

9 The network commerce system defined in Claim 8, further comprising a payment terminal connected to said network,  
10 for paying a purchase charge of said item sold or said service provided, via said orderer terminal.

10 The network commerce system defined in Claim 9,  
wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied  
15 to a destination other than said orderer.

11 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1,  
further comprising a payment terminal connected to said network, for paying a purchase charge of said item sold or  
20 said service provided, via said orderer terminal.

12 The network commerce system defined in Claim 11,  
wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied  
to a destination other than said orderer.

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5           14 A headquarters terminal comprising:

          orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
ordering an item or service;

          a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor which  
10       produces and processes said item or supplies a  
produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
from each of said orderer terminals; and

          a headquarters terminal including:

          a receiver for receiving an order  
15       transmitted from said orderer terminal via  
said network;

          a transmitter for transmitting an item  
received by said receiving means to a  
producing/receiving terminal via said  
20       network; and

          means for selectively determining said  
producing/processing terminal in accordance  
with a received order and then making said  
producing/processing terminal produce and  
25       process said item or making said selected

producing/processing terminal supply said  
produced/processed item;

wherein a network commerce is performed between  
said orderer terminal and said producing/processing  
terminal connected via a network.

15 A producing/processing terminal comprising:

orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
ordering an item or service;

a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor which  
produces and processes said item or supplies a  
produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

a receiver for receiving an order  
transmitted from an orderer terminal via said  
network;

a transmitter for transmitting an order  
received by said receiver to a  
producing/processing terminal via said  
network; and

means for selectively determining said  
producing/processing terminal in accordance  
with a received order and then making said

producing/processing terminal produce and  
 process said item or supply said  
 produced/processed item;

5 wherein a network commerce is performed between  
 said orderer terminal and said producing/processing  
 terminal connected via a network.

16 An orderer terminal used in a network commerce system,  
 said network commerce system comprising:

10 orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
 ordering an item or service;

a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
 which is handled by a producer/processor which  
 produces and processes said item or supplies a  
 15 produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
 from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

a receiver for receiving an order  
 transmitted from an orderer terminal via said  
 20 network;

a transmitter for transmitting an item  
 received by said receiver to a  
 producing/receiving terminal via said  
 network; and

25 means for selectively determining said

producing/processing terminal in accordance  
with a received order and then making said  
selected producing/processing terminal  
produce and process said item or supply said  
produced/processed item;

wherein a network commerce is performed between a  
producing/processing terminal and said headquarters  
terminal connected via a network.

10 17 A payment terminal used in a network commerce system,  
said network commerce system comprising:

orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
ordering an item or service;

15 a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor which  
produces and processes said item or supplies a  
produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

20 a receiver for receiving an order  
transmitted from said orderer terminal via  
said network;

25 a transmitter for transmitting an item  
received by said receiver to a  
producing/receiving terminal via said

network;

means for selectively determining said  
producing/processing terminal in accordance  
with a received order and then making said  
selected producing/processing terminal  
produce and process said item or supply said  
produced/processed item; and

a payment terminal for paying a purchase  
charge of said item or service sold or  
supplied via said orderer terminal;

wherein a network commerce is performed between  
said orderer terminal and said producing/processing  
terminal and said headquarters terminal,  
interconnected via a network.

18 A network commerce method, wherein an orderer terminal  
orders an item or service via a network and a  
producing/processing terminal sells said item or provides  
said service, in accordance with said order, the method  
comprising the steps of:

receiving said order transmitted from said orderer  
terminal via said network, using a headquarters  
terminal;

selectively determining a producing/processing  
terminal for said item in accordance with the content



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paying, when said order is received or after said produced/processed item is supplied, a purchase charge of said item or service via said orderer terminal.